

# THE ADVOCATE

MERIDEN,

KAN.

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Matters of importance to every Alliance man are soon to appear in the columns of the ADVOCATE. Subscribe now and keep posted.

There was great fear that the Sullivan-Kilrain fight would end in a "sell". There seems little doubt of it now.

Only three discoveries of Tascott last week. The Tascott "discovery company" can't expect to declare dividends at that rate.

New York wants the World's fair. New York's got the "World" and she ought to let the west have the fair. There's more room out here for the show.

It is worthy of comment that not a paper, republican, democrat or independent, has expressed any regret at the killing of Judge Terry or any sympathy with the woman who was the cause of it. And papers have reflected the feelings of the people.—K. C. Times.

"Rats" as an expression is admitted to be inelegant, but no one can deny that it is an observation of much ambiguous force of character. If our Kansas senator when accused of writing "that letter" had answered "rats" and assiduously adhered to that identical exclamation, he would have saved himself lots of trouble.

There is rarely an issue of the Kansas City Times that does not contain an article on irrigation applicable to Kansas needs in that respect. Whatever boom it has had in Kansas has come from the Times. It seems incomprehensible that the subject should have been handled so gingerly by our state press. It might appear that irrigation were some explosive compound detrimental to printresses that operate in the Sun ver state, judging by the severity with which it has been let alone. No object to-day is of so much importance to Kansas as that of irrigation, with a view to its ultimate adoption.

It is undoubtedly important that every farmer who can possibly do so should hold on to his wheat for some time at least. If subscriptions to the work of the Kansas Alliance Exchange are reasonably prompt, in all probability the wheat crop may yet be held by the State Agent. We must fore another issue of our paper in order to obtain from Bro. Tyler a list of his present facilities for storing grain and we believe that if he is prepared to offer better terms than either the Chicago or Kansas City markets. We must turn to Bro. Tyler and if he during any advantages in prices entire that he has to say next been considered and see what he has to lower.

## THE STATE EXCHANGE.

Notwithstanding the plain and explicit language of the law providing for a State Exchange, which we published in our last issue, it is already erroneously interpreted as levying an assessment of five dollars upon every member of the Order for the establishment of the fund required to conduct the business successfully. Let it be understood in correction of this misapprehension that there is no assessment of any amount whatever. The establishment of a State Exchange upon which the hopes of relief from the present depression of Agricultural interests largely depend, requires money, that very essential commodity upon which every successful enterprise depends. To secure this the Corporation places its stock upon the market to be sold like the stock of any other Corporation, except that only the members of the Alliance can purchase it. If any man of ordinary judgment will read the provisions of the plan adopted he will be able to discern the distinction between the levying of an assessment and the offering of the stock for sale to such members as desire to purchase it. All of the provisions of the plan are plain and explicit and easily understood if read with care. Now what are the duties of members in relation to this exchange? Too many of our members are disposed to be by far too penurious in their dealings with the Order. They have paid fifty cents initiation fee and they pay 25 cents quarterly dues, and they consider this sufficient for all the purposes the Order has in view. They seem to think now that they are organized that every desired relief and every conceivable benefit should flow in upon them freely, spontaneously and without further effort. This is not only an erroneous but a mischievous idea. These fees and dues are merely for the purpose of establishing and maintaining such an organization as will enable us to act as a unit in the gigantic struggle we have undertaken. The organization and its necessary expenses are only the beginning of this struggle,—the simple marshalling of the forces that are to participate in the engagement. Having enlisted the army we are ready to take the field, but the arms and munitions of war are yet to be supplied and these require money. This Exchange is the heavy artillery of our army and it should be promptly supplied and loaded to the muzzle with the first charge. Every farmer in the State has the largest crop of corn he ever raised, and there must be therefore a corresponding interest in finding a market for it independent and outside of the Kansas City and Chicago speculators who have hitherto controlled the prices of farm products. By a prompt subscription to the Capital stock the board of directors may so far perfect the Exchange as to be able to handle the crop of this year and bring immediate relief from one source of oppression from which every farmer must otherwise suffer as he has done heretofore. Abandon then this penurious disposition. Do not expect something for nothing; and be assured that the results actually attained will be proportionate to the money contributed, and the effort made to carry out the purposes in view. D.

not, as one member has said, "hold a nickel in hand so close to the eye as to hide a twenty dollar gold piece a short distance away." Rally to the support of this Exchange system and make it possible to put it in operation at an early day. You may perhaps discover defects in the plan proposed. You may feel that you could suggest amendments to it that would make it more effective. Let this not interfere with your prompt subscription to the stock. If you wait to see a plan formulated that some one would not think he could suggest valuable amendments to, you will wait for the dawn of the millennium, and that will be too late to make the Exchange available for any effective work this year. The board of directors elected are men of integrity and men who are conspicuous for energy and success in their own affairs, and it is expected that they will use the same energetic efforts to successfully conduct the affairs of the Exchange. Members of the Alliance who fail to rally to the support of this measure and who therefore fail to see any benefits accruing to the Organization will have only themselves to blame for such failure. The way is open. Walk ye in it, or, as they say at a wedding, forever after hold your peace.

## RED TAPE

The vexatious delays incident to the transaction of business with any of the government departments suggests something radically wrong in the methods employed. A few hours or a few days at most suffice for the consummation of the most complicated transactions between practical business men in private affairs, while a matter of the simplest conceivable character that depends for its adjustment upon the action of any one of the government departments, no matter what may be its importance, is delayed for months and not unfrequently for years ere it reaches a conclusion. It may be urged that the immense volume of government business justifies this delay, but this theory can hardly be accepted as satisfactory. It is unquestionably the duty of the government to employ sufficient force to insure promptness in the dispatch of business. The people have a right to demand this and they have just cause of complaint in all cases where it is neglected. But we apprehend that neither the lack of force or the great volume of business constitute the true cause of these delays. A brief experience of the writer during the late war may reflect some light upon this subject. The necessary discharge of thousands of the old veterans whose term of service would expire in the early part of the year 1864, was likely to deprive the army during the season for the active campaign of that year, of a large part of its best disciplined and most efficient force; and, in order to avoid so serious a loss, the government, in the winter of 1863, made overtures for their re-enlistment. It was proposed to discharge them from further service of the unexpired first term re-enlist them "for three years or during the war," pay them a large bounty and give them a furlough for thirty days to visit their homes and friends. It is needless to say that a very large majority of these men accepted the

the proposition of the government and re-enlisted. The writer being a fair penman in those days, was detailed to assist in the clerical work necessary to such discharge and re-enlistment. It would seem to ordinary mortals that this would be a very simple transaction, requiring very little time or labor. When it is stated however, that for every man thus discharged, another man for another term of service, eighteen different papers were deemed necessary, each of which required great accuracy and involved no small amount of labor, it will be seen that this conclusion is a little premature. The name and the character of these very interesting documents are forgotten but the number lingers in the memory like the recollection of a hideous nightmare. Naturally the old veterans, survivors of the Peninsular campaign, of Antietam, of Fredericksburg, of Chancellorsville, of Gettysburg and all the minor engagements of these bloody campaigns, after they had decided to re-enlist, were very anxious to have their papers completed as soon as possible in order that they might obtain their furloughs and revisit the homes and loved ones they had left in the early days of the war, and from early morn until late at night, the clerical force detailed for the purpose struggled and toiled over that heterogeneous mass of papers, requiring weeks to perform what an ordinary business man would have accomplished on rational business principles, in as many days. It is this system of circumlocution, and adherence to senseless technicalities, that constitutes the chief cause of all present delays. In the pension department it is of little use for an old veteran sufficiently disabled to entitle him to a pension under the present laws to file his application and expect it to be considered during the few remaining years of his life. We have a case in mind at the present time that is a fitting illustration of this fact. The application was filed nearly three years ago. The soldier is a gray haired feeble old man. He has established the fact beyond the possibility of cavil that he is suffering from chronic rheumatism and from organic disease of the heart. He has established the fact that these diseases were contracted by exposure and hardship in the military service of the United States, and that the disability has been continuous since its first inception. This it would seem would be sufficient. Why then is not his pension granted while he yet lingers upon the shores of time? It has been ascertained that the records of the hospital in which he was placed for treatment at the beginning of his disability show that the attending physician pronounced his disease to be "dropsy" while in his application for pension he states his disability to be rheumatism and organic disease of the heart; and the testimony of medical examining boards is confirmatory of this statement. To ordinary men it would seem of little consequence what is the precise name of the affliction, so long as it is clearly and unmistakably established that a permanent and practically total disability exists, and so long as it is equally well established that this disability was contracted in the line of duty in the military service.